

**Executive Director's Report**  
**Workforce Board Meeting, June 2, 2021 Meeting No. 248**

1. **Student Data Portal opens July 6**—The Workforce Board's secure, encrypted Student Data Portal is set to open soon, with schools from across the state able to submit student-level records for evaluation by agency research staff. Schools will also be able to get tips on how to submit their data as part of a live webinar, to be scheduled soon. This webinar is also recorded for later viewing. Student-level records submitted through the portal help research staff evaluate completion rates, employment rates, wages, and more, for recent graduates of thousands of Washington postsecondary education programs. This evaluation is used to determine which programs meet performance thresholds to be on the state's Eligible Training Provider List, and potentially qualify for federal workforce training dollars. The portal is scheduled to be open through August 27. More details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/private-career-schools/student-data-reporting/>
2. **Performance Accountability:** The Workforce Board's Net Impact and Cost-Benefit Evaluation of the state's workforce development programs is conducted every 4-5 years as required by statute. This latest evaluation, published in May 2021, details the economic impact and public return on investments for workforce programs. These programs generate an estimated \$3 billion per year in economic impact. The full report is available here: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/research-resources/workforce-training-results/>
3. **Performance Targets:** The Board approved the WIOA state targets in May 2020, which included the breakout by WDC of locally negotiated targets for all measures except for rates of Credential Attainment and Measurable Skill Gains. Only state targets were submitted for these measures due to a lack of clarity on the information required to be collected at the local level. DOL has since provided training on these metrics, and staff have been working with local areas to determine the best approach for local area rate targets. The state target level was not changed.
4. **National Governors Association's Workforce Innovation Network (WIN):** Washington has been engaged over the last month in the National Governors Association's Workforce Innovation Network (WIN) project, which brings together a cohort of 10 states to collaborate on service integration projects designed to move dislocated workers more quickly to a career pathway. Washington's project is designed to advance the Board's collective impact initiative, and to coalesce the many economic recovery efforts underway in our state. The Workforce Board submitted the application on behalf of, and in coordination with, the Governor's office, DSHS, ESD, SBCTC, and Commerce. AWB and WSLC have since been invited to participate. We also have active agency engagement from the OFM Washington Recovery group, DSB, and WSAC, with new members joining at every bi-weekly meeting.

Washington's five-month project has four key components: Developing a comprehensive map of jobseeker and business services offered by our workforce system partners; creating a common set of counseling and service planning tools that can be used across the system to aid service navigation; identifying one or more systemic measures of collective impact; and establishing inter-agency MOUs that codify new service integration protocols and expectations. Additionally, to aid the Board's collective impact work, we are using the expertise and wide field of vision of our NGA partners to look at how states are using systemic measures to determine their impact

during recovery, particularly among vulnerable populations. We're interested in learning how other states have systemically measured poverty reduction and/or the increase in economic self-sufficiency among participants.

5. **Congressional Recommendations for WIOA and Workforce Issues:** There is a great deal of interest among Congressional members in supporting effective workforce development in the post-pandemic economy. Current discussions on a federal infrastructure package, new financial aid tools, a focus on critical industry sectors such as healthcare and IT, the "future of work," expanding access to registered apprenticeships, and modifications to better support rural regions, have all emerged as areas of interest. Your executive director has been the primary contact with Gov. Inslee's D.C. office staff, and WA's Congressional delegation as inquiries and draft bills are posed. I've provided referrals to other agency and stakeholder partner staff depending on the topic. One bill that a number of our partners have helped develop and support is Rep. Adam Smith's H.R.8747 - Emergency Economic and Workforce System Resiliency Act. He will be discussing the bill at an AWB event on July 21. Here is a link to the bill: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8747/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22adam+smith%22%5D%7D&r=12&s=1>

In late April, Senator Patty Murray's office asked Workforce Board staff for assistance in working with stakeholders to develop a list of ideas for a potential WIOA reform bill. We committed to surveying system stakeholders to develop our response. Nova Gattman is leading this effort and has engaged set of stakeholders from across state and local agencies, and representing all components of the workforce development system. Nova is also coordinating with the governor's office to ensure alignment with the governor's priorities.

With subject matter support from Eric Wolf and myself, and input from stakeholders, Nova is providing recommendations on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to the Eligible Training Provider List, career pathways, future of work, performance accountability, career-connected learning and youth provisions under WIOA. One topic area is developed and sent each week to Sen. Murray's lead staff, Jennifer Stiddard. This work will be complete in mid-June, but the Board's role will continue – as the draft ideas and concepts brought up by the small group will be items for potential consideration of the Board for our more formal workforce system legislative and policy agenda.

6. **Legislative Session – Health Workforce Board Items:** This session saw many robust investments in behavioral health, including workforce! We're excited to report that multiple items recommended in the Board's 2020 Behavioral Health Workforce Assessment were included in both the Governor's proposed budget, as well as the final budget passed by the Legislature! Funded recommendations include:
  - a. Development of a teaching clinic enhancement rate, intended to more accurately compensate community behavioral health agencies for their vital role in supervising graduate-level students and practitioners pursuing their clinical licensure. This was the report's highest priority recommendation and is also linked to recommendations found in the 2017 Behavioral Health Workforce Assessment.
  - b. Inclusion of a mental health professional among the team of personnel responding to emergencies involving mental health challenges.

- c. A task force to examine impacts and changes proposed to the use of criminal background checks in behavioral health settings.
  - d. In addition, the Legislature funded our ongoing behavioral health workgroup efforts for another biennium and formalized the group as the Behavioral Health Workforce Advisory Committee (BHWAC). This group, led by our Health and Social Policy Advisor, Julia O'Connor, is charged with reviewing, monitoring, and reporting on the progress of recommendations from both of the aforementioned reports. In addition, the BHWAC will continue to develop policy and practice recommendations on pressing issues identified by stakeholders. This will allow the Board to continue to play a crucial role in addressing Washington's critical behavioral health workforce shortage, including identification of important progress and nagging gaps. A preliminary report is due to the Legislature by December 1, 2021, while the final report and recommendations are due December 1, 2022.
  - e. The Workforce Board was also charged with leading a significant research proviso to address gaps in behavioral health workforce data, which will help to inform the work of the BHWAC, with some of the work being done under contract with WA-STEM. The full body of work will include an analysis of behavioral health workforce shortages and challenges, data to inform systems change, and relevant policy recommendations and actions informed by the Board's employer demand projection and WA-STEM's talent development pipeline analyses.
7. **Long-term Care Workforce:** One other exciting item of note is that funding was appropriated for the development of a long-term care Nursing Assistant Certified (NAC) to licensed practical nurse (LPN) registered apprenticeship! This new pathway model was highlighted in the Board's Workforce Economic Recovery Plan, the state's Long-Term Care Workforce task Force, and the health Workforce Council. Funding is provided to the Washington Nursing Commission to work with a number of partners, including the Workforce Board, to develop all aspects of the program. The program will be developed in partnership with Apprenticeship Division staff from L&I to ensure that all criteria are met to be approved by the Apprenticeship Council for registration. The planning phase culminates with a design that can be to piloted in three regions of the state. Sponsoring employers, primarily skilled nursing facilities will be identified in each region. The legislative sponsor for this proviso, Sen. Steve Conway, is hopeful that funds can be appropriated in the 2022 state budget. The partnering agencies have also submitted a proposal to WA's Congressional delegation to be considered for "Congressionally-Directed Project" funding, also referred to as Community Project Funding. This is the first time in 10 years that this funding is being made available. We were very pleased that Rep. Dan Newhouse selected this proposal as one of his ten recommendations. We are hopeful that Sens. Murray and Cantwell will provide senate support.
8. **Update on One-Stop Operator Procurement at Workforce Central:** At the January Board Meeting, the Board was informed of an unsuccessful one-stop operator procurement in Workforce Central. After further guidance was received from Department of Labor, Workforce Central initiated a new procurement process and has successfully identified a new, third-party operator for their one-stops. As such, the local Board has no need to pursue waiver authority to provide operator services in-house through a "sole-source" agreement.